

Message Text

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42

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S/S-MR BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174106

NODIS

FOLLOWING ALGIERS TEL 1755 DATED JULY 13 ACTION SECSTATE
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1755

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-TEXT--REF ADDED

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AMEMBASSY RABAT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, MO , AG

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN PROPAGANDA ATTACKS

REF: RABAT 3700

1. ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN PROPAGANDA EXCHANGES MENTIONED REFTTEL
ARE, OF COURSE, ONLY A SURFACE MANIFESTATION OF DEEP-SEATED
ANTAGONISM WHICH HAS COME TO A HEAD OVER SAHARA PROBLEM.
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WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT THERE WILL BE ANY ABATEMENT OF THOSE

EXCHANGES UNTIL AND UNLESS THERE IS SOME PROGRESS ON SOLUTION OF THE BASIC DISPUTE. THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH A SOLUTION ARE NOT BRIGHT AT PRESENT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN RECENT GAINS, MILITARY AND POLITICAL, MADE BY ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO.

2. GIVEN THESE REALITIES, WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE LIKE-
LIHOOD EITHER MOROCCANS OR ALGERIANS WOULD CALL OFF PRESS
EXCHANGES, EVEN IF THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO DO SO TO
SENATOR PERCY. WE BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT VISIT HERE BY HIM
TO DISCUSS SAHARA WOULD BE USEFUL AND WOULD WELCOME IT.
WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD GET TO SEE BOUTEFLLIKA,
GIVEN LATTER'S CHURLISH RECORD WITH VISITORS, BUT ARE
CONFIDENT WE COULD GET HIM IN TO SEE BOUMEDIENE. VISIT
WOULD BE TAKEN AS SIGN OF POSITIVE INTEREST ON OUR PART,
AND FACT THAT PERCY WOULD BE ABLE TO LISTEN WITHOUT HAVING
TO MAKE AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF USG WOULD MAKE
CONVERSATION CONSIDERABLE EASIER.

3. WE WOULD HAVE TO REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT ALGERIANS
(AND OTHERS) LIKELY INTERPRET CONVERSATION ON SAHARA
INITIATED BY AN AMERICAN SENATOR AS A MEDIATION EFFORT,
EVEN THOUGH SENATOR CAME IN PRIVATE CAPACITY, AND MIGHT
EXPECT FOLLOW-UP ON OUR PART. PARKER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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